

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10

SAM-01 ACDA-10 OMB-01 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 /104 W

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R 021720Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5696

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1125

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MARR IC US NATO

SUBJECT: ANTI-BASE FORCES PLAN MAJOR RALLY FOR OCTOBER

1. OPPONENTS OF US MILITARY PRESENCE IN ICELAND ARE STIRRING INTO LIFE AFTER LENGTHY SPELL OF INACTIVITY. PLANS ARE BEING MADE FOR WHAT IS BILLED BY SPONSORS AS MAJOR ASSEMBLY OF ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE OPPONENTS LATER THIS MONTH AND, IN OBVIOUS EFFORT TO GENERATE ENTHUSIASM FOR MEETING, COMMUNIST PRESS RECENTLY PUT EXTRA EMPHASIS ON ANTI-IDF THEMES.

2. CONVENTION OF IDF OPPONENTS IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE OCTOBER 11-12 IN NJARDVIK. KEYNOTE WILL BE "OCCUPATION AND INDEPENDENCE," AND SPONSORS CONSIST OF 54 MORE-OR-LESS PROMINENT LEFTISTS, MAINLY EDUCATORS, LABOR LEADERS AND PROMINENT MEMBERS OF COMMUNIST-DOMINATED PEOPLES ALLIANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF LIBERALS AND LEFTISTS. THERE WILL BE FOUR PRESENTATIONS AT

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CONFERENCE, AS FOLLOWS:

-- OCCUPATION OF ICELAND AND THE BATTLE AGAINST IT, BY PEOPLES ALLIANCE MP GILS GUDMUNDSSON;

OCCUPATION OF ICELAND IN LIGHT OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL SCENE, BY OLL CHAIRMAN MAGNUS TORFI OLAFSSON;

-- IMPACT OF OCCUPATION ON ICELANDIC ECONOMY AND LABOR MARKET, BY OLL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OLAFUR RAGNAR GRIMSSON;

OCCUPATION AND TASKS FOR THE FUTURE, BY WORKING COMMITTEE.

MEETING IS OPEN TO ALL BASE OPPONENTS IN COUNTRY AT COST OF IKR 1500 (\$9.38) EACH.

3. CONFERENCE IS DESCRIBED BY SUPPORTERS AS ATTEMPT TO DEMONSTRATE VITALITY OF ANTI-IDF MOVEMENT IN ICELAND DESPITE FACT THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE LAST YEAR TO FORM ANOTHER LEFTIST GOVERNMENT PLEDGED TO WORK FOR REMOVAL OF US FORCES. MEETING COMES ON HEELS OF RECONVENING OF PARLIAMENT (OCTOBER 10) AND THUS COINCIDES -- NO DOUBT INTENTIONALLY -- WITH UNOFFICIAL OPENING OF FALL POLITICAL SEASON. IT ALSO OVERLAPS WITH PLANNED VISIT TO ICELAND OF CINCLANT, ADMIRAL KIDD (OCT. 12-14), AND PRECEDES SHORTLY MAJOR INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR IN REYKJAVIK ON SUBJECT OF NORTH ATLANTIC SECURITY (OCT. 24-26).

4. IN EFFORT TO AROUSE ANTI-IDF SENTIMENT ON EVE OF CONFERENCE, PEOPLES ALLIANCE DAILY THJODVILJINN HAS BEEN RUNNING ARTICLES FOR PAST SEVERAL DAYS ALLEGING THAT USG HAS FAILED TO HONOR DEFENSE-RELATED COMMITMENTS MADE TO GOI LAST YEAR. SPECIFICALLY, PAPER CLAIMS THAT BASE TV IS AGAIN BEING RECEIVED IN CERTAIN REGIONS; THAT INCREASING NUMBERS OF US SERVICEMEN ARE LIVING OFF BASE; AND THAT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS ON BASE ARE HAVING ADVERSE IMPACT ON ICELANDIC LABOR MARKET.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ANTIAMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS, MILITARY BASES, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975REYKJA01125
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750343-0804
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751088/aaaadahp.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 NOV 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <20 JAN 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANTI-BASE FORCES PLAN MAJOR RALLY FOR OCTOBER
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IC, US, NATO, IDF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006